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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National	Intelligence	Officers
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NFAC 4323-80 17 June 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA:

Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM:

Robert C. Ames

National Intelligence Officer for Near East and South Asia

SUBJECT:

Monthly Warning Assessment: Near East and South Asia

- 1. Libya. Discussion of this announced agenda item produced few unique insights into Qadhafi's prospects or scenarios for succession. Although recent actions (e.g. Embassy burnings, assassination campaign against Libyan dissidents abroad) suggest that Qadhafi's position may be becoming more precarious, there is no reason to believe that a coup is imminent. There was considerable discussion, however, of the motivations for and likelihood of success of Libyan attempts to intercept US military aircraft and ships. It was noted that the Libyans are becoming more capable in their intercepts, and that practice might make perfect -- or at least lucky -- were the political decision actually taken by Qadhafi to fire on a US aircraft.
- 2. Western Sahara. It is likely that the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) will be recognized in some way at the 1-3 July OAU Summit in Freetown, Sierra Leone -- possibly in conjunction with new Polisario military actions in Western Sahara. Morocco might withdraw from the OAU if this happens, all of which would constitute a significant setback to Hassan's negotiating position.
- 3. The West Bank: A long, hot summer? The events over the last month in the West Bank constitute a qualitative change in the prospects for violence there. Although West Bank Palestinians are not (yet) as fanatically motivated as Algerian freedom fighters, the Hebron attack suggests that some may have taken a step in that direction. The possible development of a militant, terrorist Jewish organization would exacerbate this slide into

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what could become an irreversible series of violent attacks and counterattacks. Clearly, we are currently in a phase of more active Israeli repression, which can only serve as a catalyst to an eventual slide into increased violence. The adverse impact of such developments on autonomy negotiations and on the already increasing price tag of our friends in the area working with us on other issues is obvious.
4. Afghanistan. Factional fighting within the Afghan government is getting worse, and the counter insurgency campaign by the Soviet military is distinctly unsuccessful. Pakistan's President Zia has decided to increas his support to the Afghan rebels, whose numbers are increasing. Under these circumstances we believe that the Soviets will soon if they have not already begun to do so significantly increase their military forces in Afghanistan.
5. Agenda Item for July Warning Meeting. Representatives to next month's meeting should come prepared to discuss succession prospects in Iran.

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Robert C. Ames

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